Governments have been instructed to constitute vigilance committees and involve Panchayati Raj Institutions for transparent and effective implementation of PDS.

Shortage of foodgrain stock

†520. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the total stock of foodgrains from agricultural yield in the country during 2002-03 alongwith the quantity of foodgrains that should have been in the stock for maintaining balance in the Indian market;

(b) the quantity of foodgrain stock during 2005;

(c)the foodgrain stock required to keep hold on Indian market and to what extent it is short;

(d) the reasons for shortfall in foodgrain stock and whether Government would also import to meet this shortage; and

(e) if so, the quantum thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) The total production of foodgrains in the country during 2002-03 was 1747.7 lakh tonnes which includes 718.2 lakh tonnes of Rice and 657.6 lakh tonnes of Wheat. The total stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool as on 1.7.2002 was 630.47 lakh tonnes as against the buffer norm of 243 lakh tonnes on that date.

(b) and (c) The stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool on 1.7.2005 was 251.13 lakh tonnes as against the buffer norm of 269.00 lakh tonnes on that date.

(d) and (e) The reasons for shortfall in stock of foodgrains in the Central Pool are:-

(i) Increase in offtake of foodgrains under Targetted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and Welfare Schemes.

(ii) Shortfall in procurement of wheat mainly from Uttar Pradesh and Haryana.

The stocks of foodgrains in the Central Pool are however sufficient to meet the requirement, under Targetted Public Distribution System and Welfare Schemes. There is therefore no need at present to import any foodgrains.

† Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.